Listing of Claims

1-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein at least one of said spacer molecule(s) and said linkage contains a peptide bond.

21. (Withdrawn) A ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to claim 20 which is cleavable by a protease.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein at least one of said spacer molecule(s)and said linkage is hydrolysable in an acidic medium.

23. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein said pharmaceutical is selected from the group consisting of cytostatics, cytokines, immunosuppressants, antirheumatics, ~~antipyretics,~~ antiinflammatories, antibiotics, analgesics, virostatics and anti-fungals.

24. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to Claim 23, wherein the cytostatic pharmaceutical is selected from the group consisting of ~~the~~ anthracyclines, ~~the~~ N-nitrosoureas, alkylating agents, purine or pyrimidine antagonists, folic acid antagonists, taxanes, camptothecins, podophyllotoxin derivatives, *Vinca* alkaloids, calicheamicins, maytansinoids ~~or~~ and *cis*-configured platinum(II) complexes.

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to Claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein the diagnostically active substance contains at least one substance selected from the group consisting of radionuclides, one or a plurality of ligands containing radionuclides, positron emitters, NMR contrast media, and fluorescing compound(s) and contrast media functional in the near IR region.

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to ~~one of~~ Claim ~~18~~ 35, in which the thiol-binding group contains a maleinimide group, a haloacetamide group, a haloacetate group, a pyridyldithio group, a vinylcarbonyl group, an aziridine group, a disulfide group or an acetylene group, which groups may be substituted or unsubstituted.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to Claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein said spacer molecule is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted, branched-chain or straight-chain aliphatic alkyl groups having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl groups and aliphatic carbon rings having 3 to 12 carbon atoms.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of ~~a carrier-drug conjugate~~ the carrier-drug conjugate contained in the medicament according to claim 35, comprising

(i) treating a carrier with a reducing agent so that at least 0.7 mol of cysteine SH groups ~~is~~ are present in the carrier per mol of reducible cysteine group; and

(ii) coupling a drug to said cysteine SH groups in said carrier via the thiol-binding group.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 28, wherein said reducing agent is selected from a group consisting of dithiothreitol, dithioerythritol or mercaptoethanol.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein said conjugate prepared exhibits a purity higher than 95%.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to Claim ~~31~~ 35 for the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disorders, acute or chronically inflammatory diseases and diseases that are caused by infectious agents selected from the group consisting of viruses and microorganisms in mammals in need thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit comprising a ~~carrier-drug conjugate~~ medicament according to Claim 35.

34. (Previously Amended) A diagnostic kit according to Claim 33 for the detection of diseases selected from the group consisting of cancer, autoimmune disorders, acute or chronically inflammatory diseases, and diseases that are caused by infectious agents selected from the group consisting of viruses and microorganisms.

35. (New) A medicament containing a carrier-drug conjugate and, optionally, a pharmaceutically compatible excepient, the carrier drug conjugate comprising:

a carrier comprising a polypeptide sequence of a native or recombinant albumin;

a drug moiety comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of pharmaceuticals and diagnostic compounds;

a thiol binding group;

at least one spacer molecule, having a linkage between spacer molecule and drug moiety or a linkage between spacer molecule and space molecule and thiol binding group which is clearable hydrolytically or enzymatically;

and wherein

the drug moiety is bound to cysteine-34 of said albumin over a spacer molecule and said thiol binding group;

and at least 0.7 mol of said drug moiety is bound to cysteine-34 per mol of albumin.